LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A prostatic stent-catheter system for draining fluid from the bladder and through the prostate after prostate treatment, comprising:

(a) a stent comprising a body member including a distal terminating end, a proximal end portion, and a lumen extending within the body member, the body member sized for placement substantially within the prostatic section of the urethra with the distal terminating end located proximal of the external sphincter;

(b) a connecting segment comprising an elongated body member including a distal end located outside of a patient's body, a proximal end releasably joined to the distal terminating end, and a lumen which extends within the elongated body member and aligns with the lumen of the body member of the stent when the proximal end of the elongated body member of the connecting segment is releasably joined to the distal terminating end of the body member of the stent to form a single lumen through the prostatic stent-catheter system; and

(c) a member comprising a first portion and a second portion, the first portion fastened to the proximal end of the elongated body member and the second portion for slip fitting into the lumen of the body member at the distal terminating end to releasably join the proximal end of the elongated body member to the distal terminating end of the body member.

11. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 10 wherein the stent further comprises a retaining member extending from the proximal end portion of the body member of the stent, wherein the retaining member is capable of holding the body member substantially within the prostatic section of the urethra, and the retaining member comprises a proximal end defining a ledge for receiving a pushing device.

12. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 10 wherein the stent further comprises a retaining member extending from the proximal end portion of the body member of the stent, wherein the retaining member is collapsible and expandable, and the retaining member comprises a proximal end defining a ledge for receiving a pushing device.

13. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 12 further comprising:

(a) the pushing device slidably receivable by the prostatic stent-catheter system, the pushing device including an insertion end and an external end, the pushing device sized to allow the insertion end to contact the retaining member of the stent while the external end remains outside the patient's body; and

(b) a handle secured to the distal end of the elongated body member, the handle including at least one opening to allow fluid drainage out of the handle and including a mechanism attached to the pushing device to allow a physician to control the position of the pushing device within the lumen of the connecting segment and the lumen of the stent.

14. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 13 wherein the mechanism has:

(a) a first position that extends the pushing device, resulting in the collapse of the retaining member of the stent;

(b) a second position that retracts the pushing device, resulting in the expansion of the retaining member of the stent; and

(c) a third position that further retracts the pushing device, resulting in the absence of contact between the pushing device and the retaining member of the stent.

15. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 13 wherein the insertion end of the pushing device is straight.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of placing a prostatic stent-catheter system, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing the prostatic stent-catheter system which comprises:

(i) a stent comprising a body member including a distal terminating end, a proximal end portion, and a lumen extending within the body member, the body member sized for placement substantially within the prostatic section of the urethra with the distal terminating end located proximal of the external sphincter;

(ii) a connecting segment comprising an elongated body member including a distal end located outside of a patient's body, a proximal end releasably joined to the distal terminating end, and a lumen which extends within the elongated body member and aligns with the lumen of the body member of the stent when the proximal end of the elongated body member of the connecting segment is releasably joined to the distal terminating end of the body member of the stent to form a single lumen through the prostatic stent-catheter system; and

(iii) a member comprising a first portion and a second portion, the first portion fastened to the proximal end of the elongated body member and the second portion for slip fitting into the lumen of the body member at the distal terminating end to releasably join the proximal end of the elongated body member to the distal terminating end of the body member;

(b) inserting the prostatic stent-catheter system into the patient's urethra;

(c) positioning the stent substantially within the prostatic section of the urethra;

(d) monitoring fluid drainage through the stent and the connecting segment, and out of the distal end of the connecting segment located outside of the patient's body;

(e) decoupling the connecting segment from the stent; and

(f) withdrawing the connecting segment completely from the urethra and patient's body.

20. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 10 wherein the stent comprises one or more protuberances to aid retention of the body member substantially within the prostatic section of the urethra.

21. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 10 wherein the body member defines one or more side openings in communication with the lumen.

22. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 13 wherein the pushing device further comprises a flange for engaging the ledge defined by the proximal end of the retaining member.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A prostatic stent-catheter system for draining fluid from the bladder and through the prostate after prostate treatment, comprising:

(a) a stent comprising a body member including a distal terminating end, a proximal end portion, and a lumen extending within the body member, the body member sized for placement substantially within the prostatic section of the urethra with the distal terminating end located proximal of the external sphincter;

(b) a connecting segment comprising an elongated body member adapted to extend through the external sphincter to maintain the external sphincter open, the elongated body member including a distal end located outside of a patient's body, a proximal end releasably joined to the distal terminating end, and a lumen which extends within the elongated body member; and

(c) a member comprising a first portion and a second portion, the first portion fastened to the proximal end of the elongated body member and the second portion for slip fitting into the lumen of the body member at the distal terminating end to releasably join the proximal end of the elongated body member to the distal terminating end of the body member.

26. (Previously presented) The prostatic stent-catheter system according to claim 25 wherein the stent further comprises a retaining member extending from the proximal end portion of the body member of the stent, wherein the retaining member is collapsible and expandable.